

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

ACKERMAN, Gary L. (Democrat)  
Representative, 5th District, New York  
Elected 1Mar93 to 98th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Brooklyn, New York - 19 November 1942

Home: Queens, New York

Marital status: Married (Rita) - 3 children

Religion: Jewish

Education: Queens College, B.A. 1965

Military: None

Profession: Educator; publisher and editor; advertising executive

Political: NY Senate 1979-83. Elected in a special election 1Mar83 to the seat of the late Rep Benjamin S. Rosenthal (D); sworn in 2Mar83. Reelected in 2000 with 68% of the vote and in 2002 with 92%.

Rep Ackerman is a solid liberal who works on behalf of Israel and on human rights issues. In the 104th Congress voted against an amdt to kill funds for new B-2s, because the program meant jobs on Long Island (Long Island Newsday, 6Jul95). In the 105th Congress took credit for helping local defense industries convert to peaceful applications in the post cold war era. Joined more than 200 House colleagues in calling for the administration to toughen its efforts to get international cooperation in applying economic sanctions against Iran. Cosponsored bill to extend commissary and exchange store privileges to veterans with service-connected disabilities and to certain dependents of such veterans. In the 106th Congress, praised Taiwan's commitment to democracy and its decision to provide \$300M in aid to Kosovo refugees. Worked to keep the Eatons Neck Coast Guard Station open, Warned against Asia bashing in response to the Cox Commission's report about Chinese espionage, opposed funding for the Army's School of Americas at Fort Benning, GA, sponsored a successful amendment to the FY2000 Commerce appropriations bill to increase funds for the Merchant Marine Academy, and called for an end to Selective Service draft registration. Dismissing long-term effects of the protests against the IMF and World Bank, believed they would have no impact on the vote on permanent normal trade relations with China.

In the 107th Congress, remarked "Taiwan's rapid evolution into a full fledged democracy with a capitalist free-market economy clearly signals that Taiwan is ready to play a larger role on the international stage." Thought the US needs to remain actively engaged even with nations such as China and North Korea that are involved in weapons proliferation. Opposed granting the President fast-track trade negotiating authority. Supported Federalizing passenger and baggage screeners and giving the Justice Dept responsibility for airport security. Voted to authorize the President to use all necessary and appropriate forces against terrorists and nations that aid them.

Additional: Fort Totten/Eaton's Neck CG Station and US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point are in the district. Lives on a houseboat in Washington (named the Unsinkable II--the first Unsinkable sank).

AF Bases: Roslyn (ANG) BRAC 95 recommended the closure of Roslyn ANGS (Jul 2001).

## COMMITTEES

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – Subcs on: Middle East & Central Asia (Ranking minority):  
Asia and the Pacific